

increased by more than 60 percent since 1991 and is projected to more than double by 2050. It ranks as the sixth leading cause of death in America. People who have diabetes are much more likely to suffer from blindness, kidney failure, heart disease, stroke, and nerve damage. These complications result in significant costs to the health care system as a whole as well as to the individual suffering from this disease.

Diabetes health care specialists say that many patients who are diagnosed with diabetes initially visit their doctor not for symptoms related to the diabetes but because they are already suffering from the secondary complications. If diabetes complications are the first indication that you have diabetes, you are starting your fight at an incredible disadvantage.

Although the increasing burden of diabetes and its complications is frightening, much of this burden could be prevented with early detection. Methods for controlling diabetes and minimizing its impact on health and health care costs are well documented. Yet access to these services, including screening and early interventions, varies by State.

The bill we are introducing today will provide a uniform benefit within the Medicaid Program. This bill recognizes that diabetes has been found to be most prevalent in low-income and certain ethnic populations. This bill makes sure that the needs of these populations, such as Native Americans and Hispanics are addressed.

Complications of diabetes can be prevented and the costs of this disease to our society can be contained. Early detection and treatment is the key. I know that the chairman and ranking member of the Finance Committee have been working very hard to reform the Medicaid Program so that it will better serve those who need it most. I appreciate their efforts and hope they will consider making the changes I am recommending.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CONGRATULATING HAWAII'S NATIONAL CHEERLEADING CHAMPIONS

• Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I wish to congratulate the Kamehameha Varsity Cheer Team which won the National High School Cheerleading Championship at Walt Disney World in Orlando, FL, on February 9 to 11, 2007. The Kamehameha squad received top marks from the competition's judges, garnering a total of 713 points, thereby capturing the Small Varsity Division title.

The Warriors advanced to the national championship by winning 1 of 58 regional competitions held across the country and was 1 of 6 teams to advance directly to the finals. At the national competition, Kamehameha faced off against 55 rival squads. In the final

round of competition, the young women of Kamehameha demonstrated amazing skill and athleticism acquired over many months of rigorous training.

The Kamehameha Varsity Cheer Team includes captains Corinne Chun, Jasmine Merseberg, Kendra Uson, and Keeny Won; and members Erika Castro, Kelli Ann Uehara, Cristina Lei Luke, Kanani Kekuawela, Savannah Wolfe, Kacie Kamaka'ala, Ashley Murakami, Robbi Bulatao, and Chelsea Bega. The team is led by cohead coaches Melissa Beimes and Dolly Wong, along with varsity coaches Giselle Ann-Kim and Shannon Cosma, all Kamehameha School alumnae.

I congratulate the Kamehameha Varsity Cheer Team on their accomplishment, and I wish all of them the best in their future endeavors. I extend the same congratulations to all members and coaches who participated in this year's National High School Cheerleading Championship on a job well done.●

RECOGNIZING DR. LAWRENCE THOMAS GERATY

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the lifetime contributions of Dr. Lawrence Thomas Geraty as he retires as president of La Sierra University in southern California. Dr. Geraty's strengths as a churchman, educator, academic, and administrator provide an example for us all.

Dr. Geraty has been a college and university president for the past 22 years, first taking on this role at Union College in South Lancaster, MA, in 1985. For the past 14 years he has served as president of La Sierra University in Riverside, CA.

Growing up as a member of a Seventh-Day Adventist missionary family, Lawrence Geraty gained a broad perspective of the world, living abroad or attending educational institutions in China including Hong Kong, Burma, Lebanon, England, Germany, France, and Israel. He earned his bachelor's degree from Pacific Union College, then graduated from the Theological Seminary at Andrews University. Following his graduation, he served as a pastor in Santa Ana, CA, for a brief period of time. Thereafter, he joined Andrews Theological Seminary as a faculty member. After serving at Andrews, he went to Harvard University to study Hebrew Bible and Biblical archaeology, earning his Ph.D. with distinction and completing examinations in 10 languages.

After receiving his Ph.D. Dr. Geraty returned to Andrews Theological Seminary to work as Professor of Archaeology and History of Antiquity. For the next 13 years, Dr. Geraty served as an educator and scholar in Jamaica, Jordan, Costa Rica, Trinidad, Europe, and Australia. During this period, he was a founding director of the Institute of Archaeology at Andrews University, led a series of major archaeological expeditions in the Middle East, and

worked as the curator of the Horn Archaeological Museum.

Dr. Geraty has had led a prominent career in academia. He was the recipient of a Fulbright fellowship. He served as an adviser on archaeology to former Crown Prince Hassan of Jordan. He served as vice president of the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman, Jordan from 1982 to 2002. He represented the U.S. Office of Education in a delegation of administrators to study minority education in China. He has published roughly 50 scholarly journal articles, edited 8 books and provided contributions to over 30 books.

During his tenure as president of La Sierra University, the university has seen tremendous growth and has played an integral role in the growth of inland southern California and our Nation. Between 1993 and 2006 university enrollment nearly doubled. In 2002, a biotechnology laboratory opened. In 2004, U.S. News and World Report distinguished La Sierra University for its successes in student diversity. And this year, Dr. Geraty had the great distinction of being named "Citizen of the Year" by the Greater Riverside Chamber of Commerce.

In his time as president of La Sierra University, Dr. Lawrence Geraty has provided our Nation with a role model of leadership and citizenship. His commitment continues to leave a legacy of service to academia, scholarship, education, his community and our Nation, and I applaud his lifetime of service as he retires.●

TRIBUTE TO WALTER SONDHEIM, JR.

• Ms. MIKULSKI. Mr. President, I wish to pay tribute to one of Baltimore's great civic leaders, Walter Sondheim, Jr. If ever there was a statesman from Baltimore, it was Walter Sondheim. From the time I entered public life in 1971, his name was synonymous with integrity, public purpose and civic leadership, and he was the most self-effacing public figure I ever met.

Perhaps Walter Sondheim's most unique talent was his ability to manage transitions. Whether in business, in the community or in his own personal life, Walter knew when to hold them and when to fold them. In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Walter recognized the evolution in Baltimore's economic base from heavy industry and manufacturing to tourism, service and technology. He championed a new vision of public land use and architectural excellence when he shepherded the Renaissance of Baltimore and the creation of the present day Inner Harbor. He challenged the business community to look forward and prepare for the service economy and the explosion of technology related businesses that was being driven by our major universities and federal scientific facilities.

In the larger community, Walter Sondheim led us from the darkness of